



Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles
Governor

Southwest District
3804 Coconut Palm Drive
Tampa, Florida 33619

Virginia B. Wetherell
Secretary

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Alafia River Damage Assessment Team Members:

This is to memorialize the recommendations of the Alafia River damage assessment meeting held on April 20, 1998, concerning the release of snook in the Alafia River.

As agreed in the meeting, 180 common snook *Centropomus undecimalis* will be released in the Alafia River as an initial step toward restoring the river system from impacts caused by the Mulberry Phosphates process water spill. The release is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 18, 1998. A draft news release concerning this matter is attached for your review and comments.

The snook were spawned at the DEP Stock Enhancement Research Facility (SERF) on August 19, 1996. These snook will be held in indoor tanks where the fish will be reacclimated to seawater, tagged, and their health checked and certified for release. The average total length of the fish is 16 inches. The snook will be fitted with tags which will aid in monitoring their location to determine their survival. Monitoring data from this release will provide information on whether restocking of the river is a viable option.

Please submit comments, if any, on the draft news release to my attention by May 8, 1998. For further information on the time and location of the release, you may contact Mr. Vishwas Sathe at (813)744-6100, extension 137.

Sincerely,


Sam Zamani, P.E.
Administrator
Phosphate Management

cc: David Thulman